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## President Bush's Budget Cuts Environmental, Natural Resource and Energy Independence Programs

The President's budget provides \$27.9 billion for environment and natural resource programs for Fiscal Year 2007, which is \$2.4 billion *below* the 2006 enacted level. Among many other cuts, the Bush budget proposal would reduce funding for clean water, national parks and forests, oceans, energy efficiency and conservation, and energy cost assistance for low-income Americans.

**Environmental protection.** Spending for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) would be cut by \$304 million, from \$7.62 billion to \$7.32 billion in Fiscal Year 2007.

**Clean water.** Funding to improve water quality would be cut by \$195 million, from \$1.7 billion to \$1.5 billion in Fiscal Year 2007. The *Clean Water Act* state revolving fund, which provides important funding to states for wastewater treatment facilities and water quality enhancement projects, would be cut by \$200 million, from \$887 million to \$687 million in Fiscal Year 2007. The fund's budget has been cut by nearly half, \$642 million, since 2001.

**Superfund.** While overall funding for Superfund would increase a meager one percent, the increase in total funding masks cuts to accounts that comprise the core mission of Superfund: the Emergency Response and Emergency Preparedness programs are cut by a total of \$2.861 million and the Superfund Remedial Program is cut by \$7.31 million. The Administration's budget would clean up only 40 sites, down from an average of 87 sites a year cleaned up during the Clinton Administration. In addition, taxpayers—not polluters—would be required to pay for administering the toxic waste clean-up program.

**Science and technology.** The President's budget proposes \$4.1 billion for the Department of Energy's Office of Science, an increase of \$505 million over last year's budget request and equal to the level authorized in the *Energy Policy Act*.

**Department of the Interior.** The President's budget for the Department of the Interior proposes a cut of \$393 million, from \$10.772 billion to \$10.139 billion in Fiscal Year 2007.

**Land and Water Conservation Fund.** During the presidential campaign in 2000, President Bush pledged to fully fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) at the authorized level of \$900 million annually, but for the sixth year in a row he has failed to keep his promise. The Bush Administration is proposing only \$86 million for federal land acquisition and state assistance.

**Hazardous fuel reduction.** The President's budget provides \$497 million for hazardous fuel reduction programs through the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), which is \$2 million below last year's appropriated level. This funding is critical to protect homes and communities from wildfires.

**Wildland fire management.** Spending for BLM wildland fire management would be increased under the President's budget by \$3 million to \$822 million, while rural fire assistance would be eliminated.

**National parks.** During the presidential campaign in 2000, President Bush promised to invest \$4.9 billion to eliminate the maintenance backlog in the national parks. This year, the budget cuts \$100 million from total Park Service funding, marking the sixth year the Administration has cut funding for the Park Service. The Administration proposes cutting \$91 million from construction and maintenance programs, from \$470 million to \$379 million in Fiscal Year 2007. The maintenance backlog is now estimated to be significantly larger than it was in 2000.

**Urban parks.** The Urban Park and Recreation program, which provides grants to low-income inner cities for the renovation of urban park and recreation facilities, would be eliminated.

**Fish and wildlife.** President Bush proposes to cut \$15 million from the endangered species recovery program and \$13 million from the National Wildlife Refuge System.

**Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.** The President's budget includes funding for environmental assessments as a first step toward authorizing oil drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. The budget assumes that Congress will open up the Arctic Refuge for oil and gas drilling, and that lease sales in 2008 and 2010 will raise \$8 billion in revenue. For the last six years, Congress has rejected this request.

**Forest Service.** The Forest Service budget would be cut by \$106 million, from \$4.202 billion to \$4.096 billion in Fiscal Year 2007. Within the Forest Service budget, the fire management program would increase by \$52 million, from \$1.754 billion to \$1.806 billion in Fiscal Year 2007; state and private forestry programs would be cut by \$66 million, from \$358 million to \$292 million in Fiscal Year 2007; and the capital maintenance and infrastructure improvement program would be cut by \$35 million, from \$435 million to \$400 million in Fiscal Year 2007.

**Department of Energy.** Spending for the Department of Energy (DOE) would be flat at \$23.5 billion in Fiscal Year 2007. Science and technology programs would receive an increase from \$3.6 billion to \$4.1 billion, and defense and nuclear waste disposal programs would be increased. Environmental management and energy resources programs would be cut. The overall amount of the request for energy efficiency, renewables, and energy conservation (\$1.176 billion) is almost exactly the same amount appropriated in Fiscal Year 2001 for the same purposes.

**Renewable energy.** DOE renewable energy programs would be increased by \$61 million, including a \$41 million increase for hydrogen, a \$66 million increase for solar, a \$4 million increase for wind, and a \$29 million increase for biomass and biorefinery systems. Funding for hydropower and geothermal would be eliminated.

**Energy efficiency.** DOE energy efficiency and conservation programs would be cut by \$21 million.

**Weatherization.** Weatherization assistance for low-income families struggling with high home heating bills would be cut by \$91.8 million, from \$316 million to \$225 million in Fiscal Year 2007. DOE expects cuts to this program to affect 30,000 households. The budget also proposes to eliminate the Gateway Deployment program, which helps transition new technology to the market.

**Fossil energy.** The fossil energy research and development program would be cut by \$122 million, from \$592 million to \$470 million in Fiscal Year 2007.

**LIHEAP.** The President's budget requests \$1.782 billion for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), \$379 million less than the Fiscal Year 2006 request. The total amount spent in Fiscal Year 2007 or Fiscal Year 2006 may increase as a result of agreements made during consideration of the Fiscal Year 2006 budget reconciliation bill. This amount, however, will be well below the authorized level of \$5.1 billion, which the Senate has repeatedly supported but Republican leadership and the White House have blocked. Since 2001, home heating costs have increased by 78 percent while the Administration's budget requests have not kept pace.

**Army Corps of Engineers.** The Army Corps of Engineers budget would be cut by \$596 million, from \$5.3 billion to \$4.7 billion in Fiscal Year 2007. The President's

budget proposes six high priority construction projects, focuses on completing ongoing projects, and would increase recreation user fees. Funding proposals for 596 projects in last year's Energy and Water Appropriations bill were not included in the budget request. The budget includes an inventory of the nation's levee system.

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.** Spending for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration would be reduced by \$169 million, from \$3.850 billion to \$3.681 billion in Fiscal Year 2007, including the National Ocean Service (\$113 million cut); the Oceanic and Atmospheric Research program (\$18 million cut); and the National Marine Fisheries Service (\$37 million cut).